

AIRGRAM

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2-28-62
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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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BIA9

HANDLING INDICATOR

(234) Lm

FROM : Embassy PRAGUE

DATE: November 6, 1962

SUBJECT: Security Measures Imposed at Industrial Installations Following Announcement by President Kennedy of Cuban Quarantine

REF :

B1
A9

A well-informed Embassy source

it fairly frequently farm machinery reported that on the day following President Kennedy's announcement of October 22 of a quarantine on Cuba the following security measures were imposed at industrial installations in Czechoslovakia:

1. Following the alert of Communist Party functionaries in factories and plants the factory branch for special tasks (oddelani pro vykladni uholy) whose membership consists of trusted Communist Party toughs tighter security in and around industrial installations (factory gates closed, documentation of all employees entering and leaving premises checked and rechecked, and guards posted at strategic positions within and outside installations) and readied arms depots for immediate use.
2. A ban on the use of vehicles from factory motor pools for long-distance official travel went into effect.
3. Party members were instructed to report to the factory branch for special tasks the names of employees who made derogatory remarks against the regime or who were suspected of having made them or who were reported to be engaged in panic buying of foodstuffs.
4. Skeleton management staffs were put on extra shifts, assuring the presence at installations at all times of some management personnel, together with factory militia.

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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The above measures were rescinded at small industrial installations on November 1 but were still in effect on November 3 at large factories and plants.

The same source reported that he had learned from personnel in several restaurants and cafes in Prague that plainclothes security police had circulated through public eating and entertainment establishments in Prague during the October 25-28 period, asking "suspicious or outspoken" youths to accompany them. While the source had no knowledge as to what happened to the youths, he expressed the opinion that their documents were probably checked and that they were released after being cautioned about their behavior.

In a visit to a beer hall in Prague on November 2 the reporting officer noted that the sale of beer which usually goes on until closing time had stopped at 10:00 p.m. A waiter, questioned as to the reason for the measure, claimed ignorance on the subject, saying he was simply obeying instructions.

J. M. Fleischer

Jack M. Fleischer
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

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